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HEADQUARTERS
2677th REGIMENT
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES (PROVISIONAL)
APO 512, US Army

1 May 1945

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Major Robert Bishop, 0918130, AG

TO : The Commanding Officer, 2677th Regiment

1. Interrogation of Major Robert Bishop, 0918130, AG, formerly Chief, X-2, Bucharest, was performed at this Headquarters on 30 April 1945 in order to substantiate or deny the following specific charges:

- a. That Major Bishop had absolute disregard for the most elementary of security principles as laid down in AR 380-5, in the Espionage Act, in the Official Secrets Act, and in other regulations governing military security.
- b. That Major Bishop aided or assisted in the departure of personnel from Rumania in violation of Rumanian law and the regulations established by the Allied Commission, Rumania, governing travel control.
- c. That Major Bishop made or accepted derogatory statements concerning the efficiency, ability and political beliefs of OSS personnel stationed in Bucharest.
- d. That Major Bishop made use of United States Government monies (Special Funds) for the private purchase of goods for his own use.
- e. That Major Bishop aided in the transport of salable goods from Rumania in violation of Rumanian Excise laws and the Allied regulations governing currency control.

2. This interrogation was not performed on chronological basis, but rather to confirm or refute the above charges.

3. Disregard of Security Principles.

- a. Stenographer, Rachela (alias "Shelly"). It had been reported that this clerk-typist made one additional copy of all her assigned work, which copy was taken home "to study for possible corrections." Major Bishop explained as follows: This woman had previously been employed by the Vacuum Oil Company in Bucharest before the war, and came to him highly recommended by someone whom he cannot recall. No formal personal history statement was ever prepared, nor was she vetted before employment. (Bishop stated he followed the same procedure he had used in Istanbul concerning the hiring of part-time or temporary employees, that is, no reference was made to source files other than those locally available.)

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SOURCES/METHODS EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

At the time of Mr. Kalnay's inspection of the Bucharest X-2 unit Bishop said he had determined Miss Steurman's behavior to be peculiar, and that she was being watched. When it was found she was making an extra copy of her work, he dismissed her from her position. He claims she was assigned no work other than copying newspapers and similar material, and that the extra copies were relieved from her handbag before her departure. (Comment: Miss Steurman is now reported as employed by the Russian Military Mission, Bucharest).

b. Disposal of Classified Material. It has been reported that the Bucharest office had in their possession a shredding machine which was used for the disposal of classified material. Major Bishop explained as follows: Up to the middle of November all classified material was destroyed by burning. At the time of the establishment of offices in the Otetari building, a German shredding machine was found. This has been used since this date for the disposal of classified material. Major Bishop has no knowledge who picks up the shredded paper nor where is its final destination. He professed familiarity with the provisions of AR 380-5 concerning the proper method of disposal, but assumed a shredder would be secure, for there were several that he knew of being used in Washington. He also stated that Major Kubler, then Security Officer for OSS, Bucharest had approved its use.

c. Weberling, Irmaard. It has been reported that this German woman was removed from internment at the instigation of the unit, and remained away for several months during which time she associated freely with members of the unit at mealtimes, and on one occasion attended a party at which Allied officers were present. One of these officers asked this woman where she had been born, and she replied "California." Major Bishop explained as follows: Miss Weberling was removed from internment for interrogation and use, inasmuch as she was the private secretary of Richter, head of the German SD in Rumania. She was placed in quarters at Dumbrava Rosie 4 bis, and was under the supervision of Major Bishop, Ernst Schmitz and Irving Hahn, and was subsisted by Mrs Schmitz in the adjoining apartment. Later in December, when No. 6 was occupied as a billet by members of the unit, Miss Weberling took her meals with the office employees and their guests, and on the occasion of the unit New Year's Eve party at the apartment, she was permitted to attend this function to which several Russian officers had been invited. It was later reported to Major Bishop that when asked her birthplace by one of these officers, she replied "California." Major Bishop took no disciplinary action with her for this remark. (Comment: Miss Weberling was returned to internment in March after four months with the unit, and is at present still in custody).

4. Departure of Personnel from Rumania.

a. Mezey-Fehar, Elizabeth. A separate report has been prepared concerning this incident, however, Major Bishop was asked to state his connection with her departure. He explained as follows: On a basis of personal friendship and in gratitude for the services she had given the unit without remuneration, he took a great interest

In expediting her departure. When G-2, AFHQ queried Bucharest in regard to her security, he replied that he personally guaranteed her integrity. When AFHQ clearance was given for her to enter Italy, he went with her to see Mr. Dozy, the Dutch consul in Bucharest, and assisted her to obtain a Dutch passport (Comment: her father was of Dutch birth). This was necessary, in view of the fact that her Rumanian passport, obtained several weeks previously, had been taken to the Russian Legation by Lt Spector (Comment: her American fiance, then with AC(US), Rumania) and was being held by the Russians until clearance was given. Miss Feher despaired of ever securing Russian clearance, in view of her close association with the Americans, and became quite frightened about remaining in Rumania. A conference was held between Major Bishop, Miss Feher and Lt Negropontes (Comment: Rumanian Liaison Officer with OSS, and a long time friend of Miss Feher) at which the possibility of her departure without clearance across the uncontrolled Rumanian-Yugoslavian border was discussed. Major Bishop states he gave no direct order to Lt Negropontes that he was to convey Miss Feher to Belgrade and the OSS mission thereat, and that due to his departure he had no knowledge that it had been accomplished until he was told of her arrival in Italy. He did give her a letter of introduction and commendation, but stated that he had given these to all native employees of the unit who were trustworthy.

b. Other Possible Emigres. It had been reported that other person's associated with Major Bishop may attempt to depart clandestinely from Rumania. Major Bishop explained as follows: Several of the agent personnel employed by the unit were genuinely apprehensive about their future with the Russians in view of their work for the Americans. This included Mr and Mrs Ernst Schmitz, for whom he had also secured Dutch passports from Mr Dozy, as they were of Dutch birth. Also, Lt Negropontes, the liaison officer for the Unit and the Rumanian Government, and a Miss Gavrila, who was the fiancee of a pre-war US State Department employee.

3. Statements concerning OSS Personnel.

a. With Allied Commission (American). Major Bishop stated as follows: His relationship with General Schuyler was pleasant and occurred at frequent intervals. During the entire period he said nothing derogatory about other OSS individuals, however he did often reiterate that OSS should be reduced in size, with the exception of the X-2 functions. This was because the General felt that the SI-Reports set-up duplicated the AC reporting function.

b. With State Department. Major Bishop stated as follows: Mr. Berry had more than once expressed dissatisfaction with OSS Reports Office, and felt that Madison the Reports Officer was extremely left in his political views. He can remember no statements he might have made which were derogatory.

c. With Allied Commission (British). Major Bishop

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stated as follows: Major Thomas Hogg, who is in the G-2 Section of the British Mission once stated that Madison and Roberts were Communistic. No derogatory statements were made by Major Bishop or others of the unit to Major Hogg and his co-workers.

6. Use of Government Funds.

a. The Bliss Coat. It had been reported that a fur coat was purchased for one of the members of OSS, Istanbul, using gold coins carried by Major Bishop for operational purposes. Major Bishop explained as follows: Eighteen (18) mixed gold pieces were used to purchase a fur coat for Mrs Helen Bliss, an employee of OSS Istanbul because of the advantageous exchange on gold as compared with lei or paper dollars. The coat was delivered to Istanbul, and at the time Lt(Jg) Covington asked for an accounting of the gold in Major Bishop's possession, he had the accountability for this sum transferred to Istanbul. He later determined that this account had been settled.

7. Transport of Merchandise from Rumania. It was reported that Major Bishop had a quantity of fur skins in his luggage brought from Rumania. He explained as follows: He had borrowed a sum of money sufficient to cover the purchase of approximately two hundred (200) marten pelts from Abram Scerb, a Rumanian. Scerb loaned the money on the understanding that Bishop would have Scerb's uncle in New York sell the skins and deposit the proceeds in an account in the United States, to be used for Scerb's education when he later came to the United States. Bishop was asked whether the entire sum would go to Scerb's account, or just the equivalent of the money he borrowed. He replied the former was the case, that he was fond of Scerb and was trying to help him for no return other than possibly a fur coat for Mrs. Bishop. (Comment: The provisions of the Currency Control regulations were then explained to Bishop). As a matter of fact, he stated, no money actually changed hands, and that Scerb furnished him the pelts before he left Rumania for transporting to America. (Comment: Bishop was then advised of the regulations governing the transport of goods belonging to aliens, and the possible consequences of evading Rumanian Customs examination of these furs which are at present at this Headquarters).

8. Other matters were put before Major Bishop including the report of his harboring two Germans in his residence. He explained as follows: At the time the Russian's proclaimed that all Germans in Rumania would be transported for forced labor, two of the unit's most valuable agents, Fritz Theil and Karl Theil (brothers) came to him for asylum. He thereupon asked Princess Ghika, in whose house he was residing, to harbor them for several days.

9. In view of the foregoing report, it is recommended that appropriate disciplinary action be taken with Major Bishop before he may be given other assignment or be relieved from duty with OSS. This report and accessory papers should be placed before the Theater Counsel (or General Counsel) for action along the following alternative lines:

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- a. Court-Martial.
- b. 104th Article of War
- c. Demotion in Grade
- d. Reclassification

10. As Major Bishop's immediate Commander I desire to recommend that demotion proceedings be instituted before his departure from this Command. Such proceedings would be based upon the obvious inefficiency and lack of judgement displayed by this officer, and would not preclude administration of Court-Martial or other disciplinary action upon his return to Washington.

11. Major Charles W. Hostler, 0442428, AC, was present at the interrogation of Major Bishop.

GRAHAM ERDWURM
Major, Infantry
Chief, X-2, Medto